

August 15, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, August 15, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were:	Hugh Caffery, Chairman	Dr. Darby Chiasson
	Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Larry Dugas
	Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer	Jake Giardina

Absent: None

Also present were: Earl Paddock, OCPR; David Head, CC-Clean Tech; Jimmy Ledet, T. Baker Smith Stevie Smith and Cindy Jenecke, All South Consulting Engineers
Ron Animashaun; Donald Arceneaux; Donald Falgoust; Calvin Gonzales
Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Rene Esneault; Ed Harlan; Robert Mire
Dan Mahnke, Robert Lynn, Ketley Dick, F. Miller Construction
Stacy Sagona; Jerry Waguespack; Nick Porto; Bruno Deleo
Archie Chaisson, Jr., Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Coordinator

Mr. Earl Paddock, OCPR, gave an update on the Bayou Lafourche project. He advised that there is no progress on dredging because it has stopped. There will be a little left to dredge as soon as the sewer line is relocated. They are waiting for a final submittal on the sewer line relocation.

Mr. Paddock advised that they are planning the fifth change order to reconcile all the little things, which includes removing the sidewalk and trees from the grassy area by the railroad track. It will also include the potential to put some rock at the sewer line relocation. He advised that the sediment disposal area has been cleaned up per specifications with the exception of a little area. He stated that they are waiting on approving submittals on the boat ramp in Reach 3.

Mr. Paddock stated that there was some discussion on how to handle compensating the residents who lost trees. The original plan was to plant the trees in locations close enough to the site where the trees were removed. There are about 35 residents along the bayou who needed compensation on trees. He advised that because of the state property that is left with the location of the banks, there isn't any suitable place for planting those trees on state property without jeopardizing the banks.

Mr. Paddock submitted a proposal to the Board of what might work with planting of the trees. He stated that they are considering allowing the residents to plant the trees where they want on their property. They would mark a location on the state property side where they would ask the residents not to plant the trees there. It is not a state line but rather a planting line.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked what kind of trees will be planted, and Mr. Paddock answered 6ft. cypress trees and there are about 150 to 200 trees. Mr. Paddock advised that OCPR could purchase trees through vendors that they deal with. They are considering removing the whole purchasing and planting of trees that is part of the contract, and put that money back into the budget.

Mr. Paddock advised that they or the Board would have time to contact the residents and find out who is interested in the trees, and have them delivered to the residents or a location where they could pick them up. He advised that Lee compiled a list of all the residents.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell stated that personally he doesn't see that we should be involved with the contacting the residents, and feels that the state should contact the residents. He advised that if there are 35 people involved and there are 150 to 200 trees, the Fresh Water District doesn't have the personnel to send to residents houses to ask them if they want trees. Vice-Chairman Harrell stated that this was all part of the contract from his understanding, and he feels they should go on and do what they were contracted to do. Commissioner Larry Dugas agreed with Vice-Chairman Harrell that they should be handling this situation.

Mr. Paddock stated that he would have to check on possible deliver of the trees to the residents. Commissioner Giardina commented that the trees would weigh somewhere around 200 or 300 lbs., and the landowner might not have the possibility of moving that weight of material.

Chairman Hugh Caffery suggested that Mr. Paddock make the communication with the residents to find out if they are interested in the trees or not. If they are interested in trees, the next step would be to determine where those tree lines need to be because they cannot plant on private property. Mr. Paddock stated that they will check on the cost per tree and options for delivery, if possible.

Mr. Paddock wanted to make sure the Board agrees that the tree purchasing and planting of trees can be removed from the contractor's contract. Chairman Caffery stated that he is okay with that, and the Board agreed also. Vice-Chairman Harrell asked how much of a deduction from the contract will that involve, and Mr. Paddock answered around \$60,000.

Vice-Chairman Harrell asked about the field drain pipes for homeowners, and Mr. Paddock stated that the contractor said that those are the things they will get to.

Vice-Chairman Harrell stated that in the presentation to the Ascension Parish Council it was mentioned that all the monitoring of sites where there was sloughing and where rocks were to be placed was completed. He stated that there are still people that have areas behind their houses that have not been addressed. Mr. Paddock advised that he doesn't think there are any places that are in jeopardy that haven't been addressed yet. Vice-Chairman stated that the area behind L.J. Himel's property is terrible. Mr. Chaisson stated that Mr. Amedee's property needs to be checked also. Vice-Chairman stated that another area is the Cassard property.

Commissioner Robert Thibodaux asked who will make the final inspection of the project after it is completed. Mr. Paddock answered that the engineer will be developing a punch list of items of all issues that needs to be finalized before the contract will be done. Once all that is done, they will tour the site. Mr. Paddock stated that the Board will get a punch list of the items. Vice-Chairman Harrell stated that they would like to be involved in riding to look at the project when they tour the site.

Bruno Deleo asked who is supposed to be checking that the dredging was done right. Mr. Deleo stated that they were supposed to come back to his property to correct the slope which was done incorrectly. He has not seen them yet. The electrical line he told them about when the project started is still in the bayou. Chairman Caffery stated that we will see if that is on the punch list to do.

Vice-Chairman Harrell asked if the Aucoin property has been finalized, and Mr. Paddock answered that it isn't. They still have not received any submittal from him.

Commissioner Dugas asked about the meeting with Mr. Harang and the sediment site, and Mr. Paddock stated that they are working up a draft amendment to the lease agreement.

Mr. Nick Porto stated that he had nine cypress trees that were cut during the project. He advised that they came back and put seven wooden markers, and he asked if they are going to replace nine trees or seven. Mr. Paddock advised that he will check into that.

Moved by Commissioner Dr. Darby Chiasson, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of the special meeting and monthly meeting of July 18, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve the accounts payable for July. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that a committee meeting was held August 12th regarding the Bayou Lafourche Summit proposal. The only action that came out of the committee was a unanimous vote to recommend the proposal, and that conversation was deferred until later on tonight.

BAYOU OPERATIONS: CREWS: Harvesters are cutting heavy hydrilla just south of Labadieville. Hydrilla growth has exploded in the area from Labadieville to Raceland. It is extremely heavy immediately south of the weir and it has backed up the water level over the weir. Second crew is working with the tree removal between the 3185 and St. John bridges. They have completed the 308 bank and will be switching to the LA 1 bank this week.

TREE COUNT:

No. Days worked: 11

Small (12" & under) 15
Medium (13-20") 5
Large (21" above) 4

TOTALS

Small (12" & under) 218
Medium (13-20") 182
Large (21" above) 76

Area Completed: Crew worked reach of bayou on LA 1 bank from St. John Bridge south to Waverly Subdivision.

PUMP STATION REPORT

RIVER STAGE: Beginning July : 19.87; Ending Month: 12.09 ;Current Stage: 10.10

PUMP OPERATION

No. Days Siphon: Siphoned #3-main pump open and #2-main pump rate cut for 14 days. Siphoned #2 main pump 6 days cut back , and 4 days shutting down for rain. Station down for 2 days, and mixed water for Peoples Water Service every 4hrs for 20 minutes for 5 days. Monthly total hours for #2 pump, 550 and pump #3, 326.5.

No. Days Pumping: 0

STATION MAINTENANCE:Changed air-conditioner in station office. Weber Marine repaired middle Dolphin pile ladder on river. ATT relocated phone drop service on station and we relocated Dolphin Alarm battery box and solar panel for new roof installation. The roofing contractor is moving their material in to change the roof. Automatic Power will give an estimate to check the dolphins navigation lights.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux to approve the finance report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chaisson reported that Wetlands visited the harvesters to finalize their plans.

Commissioner Jake Giardina stated that we had some discussion about monitoring when the gates are closed in Golden Meadow. He asked if we ever found out any information on that. Commissioner Dr. Darby Chiasson advised that they close the Larose and Golden Meadow gates three hours a day automatically every day. Mr. Chaisson stated that he could start checking the website to see when the gates or opened and closed.

Mr. Chaisson stated that they are moving the tug south of the weir Thursday to cut the hydrilla. Chairman Caffery advised that we have a tremendous hydrilla problem, particularly south of the weir. Apparently, there is flow restriction below the weir. The lilies at Valentine Bridge are backed up about one-half mile. By cutting south of the weir, the hydrilla will flow into saltwater and die. If we do it north of the weir from Belle Rose to Thibodaux, it will transplant itself.

Chairman Caffery advised that we will install staff gages at locations so we could monitor the elevations. We have flow meters in three locations. We could monitor the rainfall up and down the bayou, and also to monitor the Leon Theriot gate. This will be an attempt to try to quantify what we are doing here. We used a tug a few years ago but there is no record of what the levels were before cutting the hydrilla, and after we did this.

Mr. Jimmy Ledet, T. Baker Smith, reported that Matt Ledet discussed with Hugh Caffery and Archie Chaisson staff gages that the District is interested in installing at seven locations along the bayou. Chairman Caffery advised that he is interested in us getting quality assistance to Mr. Chaisson so that we can quantify the results of attempts to solve this problem of flow.

Mr. Ledet stated they are willing to do whatever we would like them to do to help us. Commissioner Giardina asked what a turnkey price would be, and what would be provided for that price. Mr. Chaisson will put out the gages and he needs T. Baker's assistance to mark the elevations. Mr. Chaisson stated that it would be easier if they installed the gages and set the elevations.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux and unanimously approved to authorize Matt Ledet with T. Baker Smith to install and set the elevations for the seven staff gages. Mr. Chaisson will obtain a price from Mr. Ledet.

Mr. Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers, distributed to the Board a narrative document entitled Bayou Lafourche Summit Master Plan for the Next 50 Years. He also distributed a list of interested parties, and a budget. Mr. Smith stated that these were the same materials discussed at the committee meeting held last week. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Caffery requested that he develop a scope of work, a budget and a list of interested parties.

Mr. Smith reported that the purpose of the Bayou Lafourche Summit is as follows:

- To develop a master plan for the bayou, including viewpoints of all interested parties up and down the bayou, and the various user groups.
- To generate a document that the District and others could use to make management decisions, to make infrastructure decisions, and to make decisions about how to manage the bayou in consideration of all users.

- To have an initial meeting to invite all interested parties to a location and explain the purpose of the summit.
- To bring together groups in meetings over a seven day period where we will have enlisted from these groups the important things about Bayou Lafourche, what they need the bayou for, and what their needs are, now and in the future. At the end of the seven day period, a draft report will be compiled of what was learned and put in a binder, and present it to everybody within it.
- To have a follow up meeting to present to the entire group the results of the entire report.
- To prioritize the needs and move from the biggest needs to the smaller needs. Priorities will be assigned to the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District, and there will be a list of how to move forward.
- The prioritized plan will be taken to the Joint Committee on Bayou Lafourche of the La. State Legislature

Chairman Caffery advised that there will be an initial opening meeting to review the history of when the pump station was built in 1955. We will let the folks know what this Bayou Lafourche Summit will be about. We will bring in groups in a focused way, and over the course of seven days we will hear from as many representatives as possible of the 300,000 users of Bayou Lafourche. It is critical to have the bayou function. We will then move ahead with a plan and then form our priorities, and take that plan to the Joint Committee on Bayou Lafourche of the La. State Legislature.

Commissioner Jake Giardina advised that he spoke to Dr. Hulbert at Nicholls yesterday, and he said we can use the ballroom area and there won't be any charge. Chairman Caffery thanked him. Mr. Smith advised that he will go to see Dr. Hulbert tomorrow.

Commissioner Dr. Darby Chiasson asked when will the public that is not a part of any groups be invited to attend the meeting, and Mr. Smith answered that at the conclusion of the series of meetings there is a task when a summary report will be presented to the Board. Chairman Caffery advised that the initial meeting will be a well-advertised event, and it will be open to the public, and the follow up last meeting will be a public meeting.

Commissioner Robert Thibodaux stated that the sedimentation in the bayou is the major problem and the second is the hydrilla. It is everybody's responsibility to see that Bayou Lafourche gets cleaned out. He stated that he hopes with this summit we could accomplish something.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux and unanimously approved to accept the proposal presented by Mr. Stevie Smith, and authorize Mr. Stevie Smith and T. Baker Smith personnel to proceed with organizing the Bayou Lafourche Summit.

Mr. Smith advised that they will need help from members of the Board for the summit because we represent different geographic areas on the bayou. We need to reach out to as many people as possible in the different areas we represent.

Mr. Stevie Smith introduced Ms. Cindy Jenecke, one of the project managers at All South Engineers. She worked with FEMA, particularly in dealing with the public. She will be able to work real

well with the public for the summit. Ms. Jenecke stated that she feels we need to reach out to as many folks as we can and make them feel like they get heard.

Mr. David Heap, Managing Director, CC-Clean Tech LLC, gave a power point presentation on using his ideas and plans for using river water diversion as a source of hydro-electric power generation to restore coastal restoration. The presentation is geared towards a coastal restoration strategy, the subject of which is water diversion to restore coastal wetlands. However, the same premise for water diversion instead of sediment diversion would apply here for Bayou Lafourche. He explained the idea of how the diversion plan would work. The cost of each unit is \$3 to \$5 million.

Chairman Caffery stated that it will only work when the level of the river is a certain amount over of the bayou. Mr. Heap advised that you only need two feet of head for this to flow. Chairman Caffery stated that the river has to be at 19ft. to give us 50 cfs., and Mr. Heap advised that was correct. Commissioner Giardina stated that right now the river is at about 9 ½ft. above sea level. Donaldsonville is about 20ft. above sea level so where we are digging the bayou right now in Donaldsonville the bottom of the bayou is equal to or above that 9 ½ft. elevation in the river so you won't have any head right now. Commissioner Giardina told Mr. Heap he needs to check river elevation versus LIDAR.

Ms. Alma Robichaux, BTNEP, advised that they planning a bayou side cleanup which will be held March 31, 2012. It will be from Donaldsonville down to the Intracoastal.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Darby Chiasson to approve the permit application for Kenneth Borne to construct a bulkhead and boat launch. His property is located a couple of miles south of the St. Charles church on LA 308. He has obtained all the approved paperwork from the COE, and State Lands Office that his project will not hinder any further work. He has also signed off on our State/Private property agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas and unanimously approved to authorize Archie Chaisson to proceed with obtaining a new permit to dredge the bayou since it takes about 6-9 months to obtain all the necessary permits through the COE, LDNR, LDEQ and State Lands Office. Our existing permit to dredge the bayou expires in April 2014.

Mr. Ed Harlan asked where the harvesters are working right now, and Mr. Chaisson answered right behind the Car Shop. He stated that he would like to see the harvesters work their way back down. Mr. Chaisson stated that they trailered the harvesters to the City of Thibodaux water intakes at their request because they were having problems with the grass and fish kill near their intakes.

Mr. Harlan stated that the bayou is four feet higher at his house than it is here. Chairman Caffery asked if he has a gage and Mr. Harlan answered no that he would like to have one put there.

Mr. Calvin Gonzales stated that the machine needs to cut the grass, pick it up and throw it on a barge, and have it taken out of the bayou.

Mr. Nick Porto stated that Mr. Paddock advised that there is approximately thirty days left on the dredging project. He wanted to know when that expires and everybody leaves and one of us who

lives on the bayou has a problem, who becomes responsible. Chairman Caffery answered according to the contract they are responsible for certain things. Chairman Caffery stated that CPRA and BLFWD have a partnership agreement, and they are responsible for certain specified things. If there is sloughing and erosion causing the problems at the end of this project, they will be responsible for fixing it. We particularly want to pay attention to anything else we see now.

Moved by Commissioner Dr. Darby Chiasson, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer